



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/AC.21/2004/14
EUR/5045236/14
10 May 2004

Original: ENGLISH

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**
Regional Office for Europe

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
THE PEP Steering Committee**

**SUMMARY REPORT
OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR TRANSPORT,
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PAN-EUROPEAN PROGRAMME (THE PEP)
(Geneva, 29-30 March 2004)**

INTRODUCTION

1. The second session of the Steering Committee for Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP Steering Committee) was convened to assess the progress made and to provide guidance in the implementation of the Committee's work programme for 2003-2005 that was adopted at its first session held in Geneva on 10 and 11 April 2003 (ECE/AC.21/2003/6-EUR/03/5040828/6, para. 32).¹ The Committee was also invited to consider proposals for further activities under THE PEP priority areas.

2. The session was attended by representatives from the following 29 member States: Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uzbekistan. The European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), as well as the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) and International Union of Railways (UIC), were also represented.

¹ All documents and further information are available on THE PEP website <http://www.thepep.org>

3. Participants were welcomed by Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO Headquarters Director, Protection of the Human Environment, as well as by Mr. Kaj Barlund, Director, UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division and Mr. Jose Capel Ferrer, Director, UNECE Transport Division.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Steering Committee **adopted** the agenda of its second session, as contained in document ECE/AC.21/2004/1-EUR/04/5045236/1 prepared by the secretariat.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(a) Election of a chair

5. In accordance with the decision of the second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health held in Geneva on 5 July 2002 (ECE/AC.21/2002/9-EUR/02/5040828/9, para. 9), each session of the Steering Committee is to be chaired by a representative of one of the sectors of transport, environment and health, with the chairmanship rotating annually between the three sectors. The Chairperson represents the Steering Committee and the Bureau between the annual sessions, as needed.

6. At its second session, THE PEP Steering Committee elected Dr. Jaroslav Volf, Director, National Institute of Public Health, Czech Republic, as Chairman. Mr. Volf succeeded Mr. Zaal Lomtadze, vice-Minister of the Environment of Georgia, who had successfully represented the Committee during and after its first session.

(b) Election of members of the Bureau

7. In line with the decision of the second High-level Meeting, the Steering Committee had, at its first session, established a Bureau to prepare the meetings and to follow-up the decisions of the Steering Committee.

8. At its second session, the Committee renewed the mandate of the following twelve members of its Bureau representing the three sectors and the different parts of the region on an equal footing, as follows:

From the health sector:

- Dr. Jaroslav Volf, Director, National Institute of Public Health, Czech Republic;
- Mrs. Ursula Ulrich-Vötlin, Head of Health and Environment Unit, Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland;

- Mr. François André, Deputy Counsellor, Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and the Environment, Belgium;
- Mr. David Hohman, Senior International Health Advisor, United States of America.
From the transport sector:
- Mr. Bertjan Griffioen, Counsellor, Division for International Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Netherlands;
- Mr. Nigel Dotchin, Head of Branch, Department of Transport, United Kingdom;
- Mr. Risto Saari, Senior Officer, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Finland;
- Mr. Vadim Donchenko, Research Director, Ministry of Transport, Russian Federation.

From the environment sector:

- Mr. Zaal Lomtadze, Vice Minister, Ministry of the Environment, Georgia;
- Mr. Robert Thaler, Head of Division, Transport, Mobility, Human Settlements, Noise, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water, Austria;
- Mr. Xavier Delache, Deputy Director, from the Ministry for Infrastructure, Transport, Housing, Tourism and the Sea, France;
- Ms. Zsuzsanna Bibok, Head, Department for Integrated Pollution Control, Ministry for Environment and Water, Hungary.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE PEP STEERING COMMITTEE AND OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU

9. The Steering Committee **adopted** the reports on its first session (10-11 April 2003) (ECE/AC.21/2003/6-EUR/03/5040828/6) and on the first meeting of its Bureau (31 October 2003) (ECE/AC.21/2004/2-EUR/03/5045236/4).

IV. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEP PROGRAMME OF WORK 2003-2005

(a) Progress report on the implementation of current activities

10. The Steering Committee **considered** the progress achieved in the implementation of the activities in THE PEP programme of work 2003-2005, as adopted at its first session. On the basis of the documentation prepared and the oral presentations made by the secretariat, and taking into account the recommendations of the Bureau, the Committee **assessed** the progress made in the implementation of the work programme and **provided** guidance on future work as presented in the following sub-items.

(i) Clearing house on transport, environment and health

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2004/3-EUR/04/5045236/3 and Add.1.

11. The Steering Committee **considered** document ECE/AC.21/2004/3-EUR/04/5045236/3 which summarized the work on the conceptual design and on proposed implementation arrangements of “THE PEP Clearing House on Transport, Environment and Health”. In addition, ten background reports were prepared, providing detailed information on all issues addressed in the summary report. The work has been carried out by the secretariat under the guidance of the Task Force established by the Steering Committee.

12. The Steering Committee **appreciated** the work carried out by the secretariat in developing the conceptual design of the Clearing House. Countries **underscored**, in particular, the importance of a step-by-step approach in the implementation of the Clearing House and the need for developing guidelines for the selection and quality assessment of the information provided through the Clearing House. The Committee **endorsed** the conceptual design of the Clearing House, the planned operational and administrative arrangements, as well as the phased implementation. It also **recommended** that the Clearing House be made publicly available as soon as feasible and reflect in its contents the results of the other projects implemented under THE PEP. The Committee also **agreed** to develop a brochure on the concept and the facilities provided by the Clearing House.

13. The Steering Committee **expressed concern** about the lack of financial resources needed for the sustainable implementation of the project.

14. The Steering Committee **established** THE PEP Clearing House Advisory Board and **adopted** its Terms of Reference set out in document ECE/AC.21/2004/3/Add.1-EUR/04/5045236/3/Add.1. The Committee **invited** potential participants to notify the secretariat of their interest to participate in the Board by not later than 15 May 2004.

(ii) Sustainable and healthy urban transport and land-use planning

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2004/4-EUR/04/5045236/4.

15. The Steering Committee **appreciated** the work done in connection with the Workshop on sustainable and healthy urban transport and planning, held in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 16-18 November 2003 and **considered** document ECE/AC.21/2004/4-EUR/04/5045236/4 prepared by the secretariat, which contained the summary record of the Workshop, as well as proposals for follow-up activities.

16. The Steering Committee **welcomed** the outcome of the Cyprus workshop and **acknowledged** the importance of the topic for THE PEP implementation. The Committee **encouraged** focusing future activities on the specific needs of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and south-east European countries, as highlighted in Cyprus.

17. The Committee **endorsed** the proposal to collect further case studies and other relevant information for wide dissemination through the Clearing House.

18. Furthermore, the Committee **endorsed** a proposal to hold a Conference jointly with ECMT and the Ministry of Transport in Moscow, Russian Federation, on 30 September and 1 October 2004 focusing on urban transport patterns and trends in large cities of the Russian Federation and other EECCA countries, as well as on issues and challenges to implement sustainable transport policies, in particular concerning public transport. The input of THE PEP would focus on health and environmental implications of transport policies.

19. The Committee **stressed** the importance of ensuring active involvement in the Conference of representatives of environment and health sectors, in particular from EECCA and south-east European countries.

(iii) Transport related health impacts and their costs and benefits with particular focus on children

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2004/6-EUR/04/5045236/6.

20. The Steering Committee **considered** document ECE/AC.21/2004/6-EUR/04/5045236/6 prepared by Austria, France, Malta, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland, containing the principal outcome of four workshops that took place in these countries:²

- Workshop I on “Transport Related Health Impacts, Review of Exposures and Epidemiological Status”, hosted by Austria (24-25 April 2003, Vienna).³
- Workshop II on “Economic Valuation of Health Effects due to Transport”, hosted by Sweden (12-13 June 2003, Stockholm).⁴
- Workshop III on “Issues Specific to Children”, hosted by the Netherlands (16-17 October 2003, The Hague).
- Workshop IV on “Synthesis and recommendations” hosted by Malta (5-6 February 2004, Valletta).

21. The document highlighted proposed policy recommendations and input provided to the development of the European Children’s Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE), to be adopted by the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest, 23-25 June 2004).

22. The Steering Committee **appreciated** the work done by the six countries. The Committee **acknowledged** the report that looked, in particular, at the diverse health effects of transport on children and its contribution to the development of the CEHAPE.

² See http://www.unece.org/the-pep/new/en/workplan/health/health_implementation.htm

³ Full papers and presentations can be downloaded from: <http://www.herry.at/the-pep/agenda.htm>

⁴ Full papers and presentations can be downloaded from: <http://www.herry.at/the-pep/stockholm.htm>

23. The Committee **recommended** that follow-up actions should further develop the economic methodologies and evaluations.

24. The Committee **recommended** a broad dissemination of the results of the report, including at the Budapest Conference. The Committee **suggested** revising the conclusions to clarify their concrete application. It also **recommended** to use the results of this project as a basis to explore opportunities for research, particularly with respect to further developing methodological aspects related to the assessment of costs and effects of transport on health, and further increasing the relevance and applicability of the results to policy-making in the transport sector.

25. The Committee **endorsed** the proposals for follow-up actions that should contribute to the further implementation of THE PEP as well as of the CEHAPE and **stressed** the importance of enlarging the geographical coverage of these activities to all the UNECE and WHO/Europe member States. It **decided** to set up a Task Force for the implementation of the follow-up activities, and invited the interested member States to participate in it.

26. The Committee **took note** of the wish expressed by certain delegations to focus the future work under this project increasingly on the implications of the project in terms of health and economic effects on transport policies and instruments, while attempting to measure the impact of transport activities on human health, both in physical and financial terms. It was felt, moreover, that in addition to producing estimates on transport-related effects on children's health, the project should aim at producing full estimates of the transport related impacts on health of the general population. Finally, it was felt important to consider the transferability of the results obtained by the six countries also to the other countries in the region.

(iv) **Establishment of a set of indicators to monitor the integration of environmental and health aspects into transport policies and the impact of the policies on health and the environment**

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2004/5-EUR/04/5045236/5; Informal document No. 1.

27. The Steering Committee **appreciated** the work done by the secretariat and **considered** the interim report on progress achieved contained in the document ECE/AC.21/2004/5-EUR/04/5045236/5.

28. The Steering Committee **concluded** that this project needed more input from member countries, **invited** them to submit information to the secretariat about their national experiences regarding integration of the THE PEP indicators and their use in policy-making, and **recommended** that further developments in this project leverage on-going work, particularly within the WHO and EC-EEA.

29. The Committee **recommended** to link, at a later stage, this project to a new project proposal that will aim at developing guidance on institutional arrangements and mechanisms that help to achieve integration of policies in transport, environment and health. The project could also involve, in the future, a survey and a qualitative assessment of how, and to what extent, indicators are in fact being used in policy-making and monitoring processes.

(v) Energy efficient driving behaviour

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2004/10-EUR/04/5045236/10.

30. The representative of the Netherlands **informed** the Steering Committee about progress achieved in implementation of the activity on “eco-driving” (document ECE/AC.21/2004/10-EUR/04/5045236/10). The Committee **appreciated** the work presented by the Dutch delegation, **invited** other countries to consider applying this approach and **recommended** the dissemination of the project results through THE PEP Clearing House. The Committee **noted** the importance of carrying out further work for improving the eco-driving practices.

(b) New project proposals

31. The Steering Committee **was informed** about a new project proposal submitted by the Spanish delegation on the THEMATIC NETWORK “Integration at the metropolitan level: the role of public transport authorities” (THE PEP IN THEMA).

32. The Steering Committee **supported** this proposal and **invited** other potentially interested parties to contribute to it.

(i) Practical guidance on institutional arrangements and mechanisms for integrated policy and decision-making

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2004/11-EUR/04/5045236/11.

33. The Steering Committee **considered** the project proposal for providing practical guidance on institutional and administrative mechanisms to promote integrated policy- and decision-making among the environment, health and transport areas.

34. The Steering Committee **acknowledged** the importance of well-adapted institutional structures and adequate organizational support for cross-sectoral integration and admitted the existing insufficiencies in this field, especially in the EECCA countries.

35. The Steering Committee **referred** to the work already carried out at the EU, OECD and ECMT, as well as at the national level, on various aspects of cross-sectoral integration. The Committee **endorsed** the proposal to collect practical experiences, good practices and lessons learned of the member countries focusing specifically on institutional aspects of integration. This information would be made available and disseminated through the Clearing House. A number of delegations committed themselves to providing relevant information.

36. Some delegates from EECCA countries expressed, however, their concern regarding the transferability of institutional arrangements to their specific situations and the need for more practical and well adapted guidance on effective implementation, based on the analysis of the good practices.

(ii) Promotion of safe walking and cycling in urban areas

Documentation: ECE/AC.21/2004/13-EUR/04/5045236/13.

37. The Steering Committee **considered** and **appreciated** the relevance of the project proposed by the secretariat outlined in document ECE/AC.21/2004/13-EUR/04/5045236/13 to exchange and disseminate existing good practices of the different countries in the region to promote safe conditions for people to walk and cycle in urban areas, and to take stock of on-going work to improve the assessment of health effects related to levels of cycling and walking and of the costs and benefits of promoting non-motorized transport means.

38. The Committee **recommended** focusing the project on planning processes and tools, bringing together and co-ordinating on-going projects.

39. The Committee **welcomed** the expression of interest by several member States to contribute to the project by making available results of relevant studies, experiences and possibly financial resources.

40. The Committee **decided** to establish a Task Force of experts, interested member States and organizations. The secretariat will implement this decision with interested participants and will operate principally through electronic means of communication.

(iii) Improving cost-benefit analysis of cycling infrastructure investments

41. The representative of Sweden **informed** the Steering Committee about a project carried out by the Nordic countries under the leadership of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of the project is to improve the cost-benefit analysis of investments in cycling infrastructure in order to allow comparison with other investments in transport infrastructure. The finalization of this project is planned for summer 2004.

42. The Committee **expressed interest** in this project and recommended that the outcome of this project be made available to the project on "Promotion of safe walking and cycling in urban areas".

(c) **Overview of the resources for the implementation of THE PEP work programme**

43. The Steering Committee **was informed about** the extra-budgetary resources needed for the implementation of THE PEP work programme. It **requested** the secretariat to transmit a letter to Governments providing an overview of these resource requirements and soliciting financial and/or in-kind contributions. In particular, this communication should address in detail the extra-budgetary resources that were required for the implementation and pilot phases of THE PEP Clearing House project and highlight its political relevance and contribution to the forthcoming Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest, 23-25 June 2004). Copies of such letters should be sent to focal points and missions, as appropriate.

V. INFORMATION ON THE PREPARATION OF THE BUDAPEST CONFERENCE

Documentation: EUR/04/5046269/BD/S/3.

44. The Steering Committee **was informed about** preparations for the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health: “The future for our children” which will take place in Budapest on 23-25 June 2004⁵ as well as on the contribution of THE PEP to the development of the Ministerial Declaration and of a children’s environment and health action plan for Europe (CEHAPE). The Committee **appreciated** the work done on this project by the secretariat, **recognized** its importance for the further development and continued political support of THE PEP implementation and **decided** to give its full support to ensure high visibility of THE PEP at the Conference.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

45. The Steering Committee **was informed about** activities planned on the occasion of the World Health Day 2004 (7 April 2004), devoted to Road Traffic Safety and to the Road Safety Week (5-11 April 2004). In particular, the launch on the World Health Day of a World Report on Road Traffic Injury prevention, jointly prepared by the WHO and the World Bank and of a companion report: “Preventing road traffic injury: a public health perspective for Europe” (in English and Russian) were announced. The reports will be made available through THE PEP Clearing House and web site.

VII. NEXT MEETING

46. The Steering Committee **decided** to hold its third session on 11-12 April 2005 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, while the meeting of its Bureau would be held on 3 December 2004 in Rome.

⁵ Additional information may be obtained at: www.euro.who.int/budapest2004